

in 2000, Ronald left home to begin full-time duty at Fort Carson in Colorado. He was assigned to the 502d Personnel Service Battalion, 43d Area Support Group.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Ronald Allen, Jr.'s sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Ronald's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Ronald Allen, Jr. in the official RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Ronald's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God bless the United States of America.

Mr. President, I also wish today to honor the accomplishments of the Hoosier soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 293d Infantry Regiment, and the 1st Battalion, 152d Infantry Regiment, from the Indiana National Guard, who have become the first National Guard battalions in the Nation to receive the Combat Infantry award since the Korean war.

The Combat Infantry award is a highly coveted honor given by the Department of the Army to soldiers who have satisfactorily performed infantry duties as part of a unit that participated in ground combat. The Infantry badge honors soldiers who have operated under the worst conditions, yet still successfully performed his or her mission in a combat environment. In addition, medics who supported the soldiers will receive the Combat Medical Badge. I am immensely proud that these Indiana battalions have become the first units in more than 50 years to earn this distinction.

All members of the battalions will receive the Combat Infantry award as a symbol of our Nation's gratitude for the bravery they demonstrated and the sacrifices they and their families have made during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 1st Battalion, 293d Infantry Regiment, and the 1st Battalion, 152d Infantry Regiment, are the first Indiana National Guard units to go into combat since World War II. As this award recognizes, they have made an exemplary

return to battle, honoring themselves and their home State of Indiana through their efforts.

The battalions have been stationed in Iraq for more than 5 months. During their time in Iraq, the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 293d Infantry Regiment, have provided security for the Talil Air Force Base, a key airstrip in Southern Iraq. The unit took over responsibility for the base just days after the war's deadliest battle took place on April 1 to secure control of the airstrip. The members of the 1st Battalion, 152d Infantry Regiment, have engaged in a wide range of missions, including guarding the Baghdad Airport, one of the most strategically important sites in Iraq.

I am proud to honor the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 293d Infantry Regiment, and the 1st Battalion, 152d Infantry Regiment. The thoughts and prayers of all Hoosiers are with them as they continue their role in rebuilding Iraq. May God watch over the soldiers as they complete their duty and may God bless the United States of America.

Mr. President, I further rise today to honor the heroic service of United States Army Cpl Damien Luten, 24, of Indianapolis, IN. Corporal Luten was a member of the U.S. Army's 507th Maintenance Company, which crossed into Iraq from Kuwait on March 21, 2003, as part of a convoy supporting a patriot missile battalion, during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On March 23, 2003, the 507th Maintenance Company was ambushed by Iraqi military forces and irregulars in the city of An Nasiriyah. According to the U.S. Army, Corporal Luten's convoy found itself in a desperate situation due to a navigational error caused by the combined effects of the operational pace, acute fatigue, isolation and the harsh environmental conditions. The tragic results of this error placed the soldiers of the 507th Maintenance Company in a torrent of fire from Iraqi soldiers who attacked the isolated convoy.

Eleven of the company's 33 soldiers were killed in combat or later died from injuries. Seven soldiers were captured in the attack, including PFC Jessica Lynch who was later rescued by American Marines. This toll, though devastating, may have been much greater had it not been for the valorous acts of soldiers such as Corporal Luten, who sought to protect his unit by attempting to return fire with the unit's only .50-caliber machine gun. However, the machine gun failed and as Corporal Luten was reaching for his M-16, he was wounded in the right leg by enemy fire. Corporal Luten has been awarded the Purple Heart for the wound he received in combat.

As I reflect on Corporal Luten's service, I am reminded of a quote by Douglas MacArthur:

The soldier, above all other people prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.

The United States will be eternally grateful for the courage and bravery Corporal Luten exhibited on the field of battle.

Corporal Luten is expected to return to his base in Fort Bliss, TX, where he will have at least one more surgery on his leg. This will be the ninth surgery Corporal Luten has undergone to repair his injured leg. If Corporal Luten has his way, his injury will not mark the end of his military service. He plans to re-enlist and enter the Army's Chaplain Corps when his current tour concludes in April 2004.

I know that all Hoosiers share my deep sense of pride in Corporal Luten and all of the men and women of our Armed Forces from Indiana who safeguard our freedom. My thoughts and prayers are with him as he continues his recovery and begins his new service in the Army.

CHANGE OF VOTE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, on rollcall vote No. 319, I was recorded as voting aye. I intended to vote "no" on the passage of H.R. 2738, the Chilean Free Trade Agreement. I ask unanimous consent to change my vote. This will not change the outcome of the vote.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute and recognize Women's Equality Day on August 26, 2003. As well as celebrating Women's Equality Day, this day is also a celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Equal Rights Amendment Campaign.

This year's celebration being hosted by the Advisory Boards on the Status of Women of Essex, Bergen, and Union Counties in New Jersey is the 155th observance of Women's Equality Day.

One of the most important people in the fight for women's equality was Alice Paul. Alice Paul was born in Mt. Laurel, NJ, and spent her entire life fighting for women's rights. She believed that men and women should be equal partners in society. She led the final, successful campaign for a woman's right to vote. She inspired thousands to join the struggle as she stood up to Congress and the President.

Understanding that securing the right to vote was only the first step, Alice Paul authored the Equal Rights Amendment and drafted and lobbied for gender equality language in the United Nations Charter and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Alice Paul is a great example that one person can make a difference and motivate others to take up a noble cause.

Today, because of Alice Paul and numerous other women who preceded and followed her, we're getting closer to true equality for women.

It is important that we recognize Women's Equality Day. Since the days